What is claimed is:

1. A method for use in a distributed processing system to specify an application service comprising:

defining a schema comprising an operation having a plurality of arguments;

5   validating said schema; and

executing said operation in said distributed processing system.

2. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein defining a schema comprising an operation having a plurality of arguments comprises defining a schema having a nested operation.

10   3. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein defining a schema comprising an operation having a plurality of arguments comprises defining a schema having a plurality of nested operations.

4. A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein defining a schema comprising an operation having a plurality of nested operations comprises defining a schema having one or

15   more nested operations in one or more of said nested operations.

5. A method in accordance with claim 2 wherein validating said schema further includes validating said nested operation.

6. A method in accordance with claim 3 wherein validating said schema further includes validating said plurality of nested operations.

20   7. A method in accordance with claim 4 wherein validating said schema further includes validating said one or more nested operations in one or more of said nested operations.

8. A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of generating a program to perform the defined operations.

9. A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of distributing

25   operations to one or more members of the distributed system.

10. A method in accordance with claim 9 wherein said step of defining a schema includes indicating one or more points where distributing operations is beneficial.

11. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the step of defining a schema comprises defining a schema in XML.

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